

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 28, 2000 (BOS Mtg. 7/18/00)

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Daniel M. Stuck, County Administrator

SUBJECT: Regional Issues Committee – Rail Service Enhancements

ISSUE AND CONSIDERATIONS

On February 22, 2000, the Regional Issues Committee (RIC) conducted a workshop on transportation issues, both local and regional. Mr. Dwight L. Farmer, Deputy Executive Director, Transportation, for the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission, gave a presentation on the state of transportation in Hampton Roads. During the course of the presentation, Mr. Farmer commented on the issues related to passenger rail service in Hampton Roads with particular emphasis on the potential for high speed rail and other enhanced rail services. Additional discussion with members of the RIC concentrated on other aspects of passenger rail including more frequent service, rail station and rail crossing improvements and upgraded tracks.

Mr. Farmer noted that high speed rail service for Hampton Roads was at risk due to the geography of the region with significant problems arising from the difficulties in making the water crossing from the Peninsula to the South Hampton Roads. Furthermore, Mr. Farmer noted that there was some discussion among rail proponents in South Hampton Roads to request that high speed rail service be developed in the general vicinity of the Route 460 corridor from Richmond to Virginia Beach. This concept would result in initial high speed rail service bypassing the Peninsula altogether and would likely preclude the future establishment of high speed rail and potentially other enhanced rail services.

Following the discussion, RIC members agreed that the local governments represented on the Committee should clearly state a unified position in regard to future rail service on the Peninsula. This position, which would take the form of a consistently worded resolution adopted by the respective governing bodies, could easily be transmitted to various transportation and rail organizations as well as Federal, State and local government agencies involved in rail service development issues and decisions. Both the City of Williamsburg and James City County have formally adopted the RIC proposed resolution.

RECOMMENDATION

I believe the RIC has done a commendable job of exploring an important transportation issue of regional concern and developing a response that allows the communities of the Historic Triangle to speak in unified language regarding our desires for rail service on the Peninsula. Therefore, I recommend that the Board support the position developed by the RIC through the adoption of proposed Resolution R00-102.

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Attachment

- Proposed Resolution R00-102